

United States Department of Agriculture



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Transmitted via Email

December 18, 2004

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 300-5-17

SUBJECT: LTP – EQIP – GROUND AND SURFACE WATER EQIP FUNDS

Purpose. To provide the process for use of Ground and Surface Water EQIP funds in 2005.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2005.

This bulletin transmits the 2005 Minnesota process for approving Ground and Surface Water Conservation (GSWC) EQIP funds. Minnesota received approximately \$200,000 of GSWC funds for 2005. The purpose of these funds is to promote ground and surface water conservation by providing cost-share incentive payments to improve irrigation systems, enhance irrigation efficiencies, convert to less water-intensive agriculture, improve water storage through groundwater recharge, and mitigate drought effects or other water conservation methods.

A participant receives GSWC funds only if it facilitates a net savings in water resources for the producer. Participants must meet the requirement of the land being irrigated two out of the last five years. Because of the limited funding, Minnesota will set a high priority threshold for applications using the Practice Standard 442-Irrigation System, sprinkler.

For the first scoring cutoff (January 28, 2005) offices should take applications of Practice Standard 442 along with Practice Standard 449-Irrigation Water Management as separate applications and enter into Protracts, attaching these applications to Fund Code EQIP GSWA FA, 78F. Enter the base score from the scoring worksheet (Factors A-J, without the local weighting) in the Protracts application block. For these applications the minimum base application score of 7 points will not apply.

In early February, the State Office will review all of the applications. The State Office will respond to the field on which applications will receive funding from the GSWC. Those applications not funded through GSWC would be eligible for regular EQIP funding and should be scored and ranked with all the other regular applications.

It is anticipated that all of the GSWC funds will be expended by the first cutoff and that separating applications and fund codes will not be necessary for the second and third scoring.

Questions should be directed to your ASTC (FO) or from the Area to Tim Koehler, Assistant State Conservationist.

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

DIST: ASTC
FO
ENG (A)
EQIP State Office Team